

Thos. Bligh

8138 g 10

THE
CALEDONIAN.

A
D R E A M.

INSCRIBED TO

The Right Hon. the Earl of CHATHAM.

*Cuncta prius tentanda, sed immedicabile vulnus,
Ense rescindendum.*

L O N D O N.

PRINTED FOR MESSRS. FIELDING AND WALKER, PATER-NOSTER-SQUARE.
MDCCLXXVII.

THE

GALLERIES

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

OF THE HISTORY OF MAN



LONDON

Printed by J. G. Smith, at the British Museum Press, London.

The CALEDONIAN.

A D R E A M.

INSCRIBED TO

The Right Hon. the Earl of CHATHAM.

*Cuncta prius tentanda, sed immedicabile vulnus,
Ense rescindendum—*

MY LORD,

I AM a native of that part of the united Kingdom called Scotland; to whose indefatigable and ambitious sons, the *virtuous Minority* and their adherents have attributed every evil, which could possibly disgrace the councils, and degrade the dignity of this nation, since the fatal and lamented moment, when your Lordship quitted the political Helm, to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*, your title and pension.

According to them, Scotch councils, a Scotch junto, and secret influence; have all along directed the master-springs of government; infomuch, that the present ministry are represented as so many puppets, actuated solely by the will of Lord Bute, Lord Mansfield, and Alexander Wedderburne, &c.—Having

B

therefore

therefore such respectable patrons behind the curtain, where is the wonder, that every Caledonian, on his leaving the banks of the Tweed, looks southward as to the Land of Promise.—Of this number am I; and as each individual has his different pursuits, the world of preferment lying all before him, my favourite propensity (I speak without blushing) leads me to the flattering contemplation of making, sooner or later, a distinguished figure in parliament. Transported with this idea, I fell asleep last night over a glass of punch and a file of new-papers; and fancied myself seated within the sacred walls of St. Stephen's, as member for a late vacant district of Scotch boroughs. The gods of my idolatry, Lords North and Germaine, seemed then before me; I hugged myself in having been graciously distinguished in the crowd by the penetrating eyes of these ministers, and brooked with impatience the factious harrangues of W——, L——, F——, and J——; till animated with zeal, and at the same time fired with indignation, at the monstrous proposition of Mr. B——, to recall His Majesty's fleets and armies from America: a power more than human penetrated my nerves, the Genius of Clacmannan inspired my tongue, I started upon my legs, and thus addressed the Chairman.

MR.

MR. SPEAKER,

AT a time when senseless clamour and unmerited disaffection to the most patriotic measures that ever distinguished a British Administration, are trumpeted through the land; as a member of this house, anxious for the honour of his sovereign, and the glory of his country; I should think myself unworthy of the seat I hold, or the great trust reposed in me by my constituents; could I longer tamely sit in a state of torpid indifference, while t——n and r——n are countenanced and defended in the most open and daring manner, not only in the metropolis, through a thousand muddy and corrupt channels, but even within these hallowed walls. Nay, to so enormous and shameful a degree, have the assassins of their country dared to carry their rancorous malice, that too many of our very newspapers teem with t——n; and attempts, but too successful, continue to be made, to render the public prints accessible only, to the voice of disloyalty, and the purposes of sedition.

With what malignant joy do the wretched authors, of the still more wretched daily publications, appear to be actuated, when they feloniously promulgate writings, evidently calculated to disgrace the nation, mislead the subject, dishonour the king,
abuse

abuse government, and affront the constitution. That the ungrateful and infatuated Americans, thus abetted, countenanced and supported, should persist, in their unnatural exertions to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain, becomes no longer a matter of surprize; since Englishmen, lost in their affected apprehensions for American liberty, appear so totally regardless of the interest, dignity, and prosperity of the mother country.

I do not know, sir, how the feelings of other gentlemen may be affected with certain speeches of this day, but for my part, I cannot sufficiently express my surprize, *obstupui steteruntque comae, vox faucibus hæsit*, and I declare, it requires a degree of patience, superior to what I am endued with, tamely to hear the best friends of the constitution treated with an asperity of language, unbecoming the dignity of a British senator.

It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, for the honourable gentleman over the way, to reprobate every measure of administration, with the most wanton and unprovoked acrimony:—It is not sufficient to magnify every trifling advantage gained by the rebels, into acts of heroic bravery and consummate prudence—to compare their army to that of Xerxes, and their bumboats

boats to first rate men of war—the worthy member thinks he cannot testify his zeal for the rotten cause he has adopted, without heaping disgrace and obloquy, on the gallant sons of Britain, who are at this moment straining every nerve, and freely sacrificing the best blood in their veins, for the honour of the country which gave them birth.

We are told with an effrontery, which aggravates the insult, that our military discipline is shamefully relaxed, and that, while the Americans are daily improving in the art of war, our troops exhibit nothing but acts of wanton cruelty, or detestable cowardice.—But this is not all, *occurrit auxilio suis*, another gentleman, in strains of the most persuasive oratory and flowing periods, which only want truth to impress us with conviction, laments the lost and irretrievable state of the kingdom, enumerates with apparent rapture, our manifold taxes, decay of trade, bankruptcies, and approaching dissolution: and while he expatiates with a joy, which he is not even at the pains to conceal, on the rotten condition of our navy, the imbecillity of our army, and total weakness of the kingdom, to defend itself from foreign invasion, or domestic treason; virtually invites the enemy to lay hold of the present opportunity, to strike his bleeding country to the heart, even pointing out to

all the world, where the fatal blow may be given with the greatest security and success.

For God's sake, Mr. Speaker, what is it these gentlemen aim at, who would have us believe, they alone are endowed with sentiments of the most exalted patriotism?—Is it their desire that Britain, the mistress of arts, the mother of heroes, the envy of nations, the happy land where Freedom has erected her standard, in preference to every other country upon earth, should fall at the feet of all powerful America, and deprecate the wrath of her revolted children; or do they wish to see their country reduced to the miserable state of a tributary province to France?—to what other tendency are we to attribute the laboured harangues of opposition?—To the landholder, do they not say, despair and ruin attend you? there is no security for your property in this devoted land: a vast majority of Lords and Commons, whose all is at stake, and who possess seven eighths of the kingdom's freeholds, together with his majesty, his council and government, are leagued against you; believe us, many of whom have little or no property, and who may well be supposed to have an amazing zeal for the interests and property of other people.—Be persuaded, *post est occasio calva*, sell off your estates while there are yet purchasers, and take shelter in that virtuous clime, where only freedom dwells; where liberty
of

of speech is unconfined, and the friends of old England indulge themselves in railing against the Congress without controul.

To the stockholders do they not loudly proclaim on house-tops:—Ye deluded men, know that the dependance ye place on the faith of government securities is sandy and without foundation; sell out, that we may buy in; for the time cometh, yea is at hand, when your three and four *per cents.* your *consols.* your *script, omnium,* and *long annuities,* will vanish into smoke, and like the baseless fabric of a vision, leave not a single guinea behind. As for you, ye possessors of Bank notes, rush upon the directors like a mighty torrent, pour them in upon the cashiers from all quarters and from every country, and if you follow our dictates, you will soon oblige the haughty premier to be more sparing of his jokes upon American currency, since the currency of Britain will then be little better.

If this, Mr. Speaker, is not the meaning of certain honourable gentlemen, who have figured away with all the powers of declamation, even until very Echo has sickened, I shall be happy to be otherwise informed: certain it is, that the primary cause of all our troubles, originated with those who are now loudest in execrating a civil war, which their own insidious practices first blew into a flame. The honourable member
who

who spoke last, has been at infinite pains to convince us of the necessity to recall our fleets and armies from beyond the Atlantic, grounding his conviction of the futility of our attempts against American valour, from the little success with which our arms have been hitherto crowned; a proposition of great modesty it must be confessed, and which, if followed, would not fail to render us the laughing stock of all Europe. Would they not exclaim in accents of astonishment; the ministry of Great Britain have made a fine hand of it! Is this the end of all their mighty warlike preparations? After having at a vast expence, which would almost have annihilated the resources of any other state, and with a firmness that did honour to her councils, persevered in a resolution to subjugate one of the most daring and unnatural rebellions recognized in history; a rebellion big with peril to every commercial state, fatal to France, fatal to Europe; without having once suffered a single defeat; in the midst of glory and triumph; when the wretched leaders of American apostacy, without money and without credit, were driven to despair, and perhaps meditating on the sole means of safety, by a timely and obscure retreat; when the critical moment was arrived for loyalty in the provinces to declare itself, and the miserable inhabitants had the first dawn of hope, to free themselves from the most galling and intolerable slavery; when the British flag rode triumphant
in

in every port of America; when the resources of the rebels were dried up, their credit and commerce destroyed, and even the natural foes of Britain had finally given up their cause, as hopeless and nugatory; when the voice of faction was almost extinguished at home, and the voice of the nation loudly proclaimed the rectitude of our quarrel!—In such a case, well might they pronounce, *quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat*. But I am happy to experience more stability in our councils, and convinced that the period is at no great distance, when the glorious exertions of administration will not fail to triumph over the factious designs of disloyalty and sedition. The honourable member having laid great stress upon the alarm which the rebel privateers had made upon our coasts; it remains to investigate the so much boasted naval strength of the colonies, and their puny powers of offence and defence by sea. To those, Mr. Speaker, conversant in maritime affairs, and ultimately acquainted with the principal sea-ports on the extended shores of North-America, from Cape Florida to the straits of Belle-isle; to men who have had opportunities to explore their weakness and utter inability to defend an open coast of so many hundred leagues extent, nothing can possibly appear more ridiculous, than the affected ostentatious parade of their naval arrangements, and the truly laughable accounts of their very

D

potent

potent nautical armaments. One day we are told of a wonderful expedition, fitted out under the command of a certain doughty hero (a subaltern renegade and excrement of the navy) who is to give a British admiral a sound drubbing; another time we are alarmed with certain news of a fleet from Utopia, sent to pick up our homeward bound East-India ships from St. Helena. To those who are not ashamed to propagate such absurd rhodomontades, or to those who have credulity enough to swallow them, nothing will appear difficult; they have only to make the trifling addition, that the warlike Bostonians are actually preparing to invade England in flat-bottomed boats; there will not be wanting hundreds to circulate the falsity, nor thousands weak enough to believe it. But the greatest wonder still remains behind; from whence are these mighty squadrons to be fitted out? And here let us make a pause.—That they have already built, and still may build, vessels of war and burthen, I readily allow; but that they are at present furnished with many such, or have either means or opportunity to do it, in the present distracted state of the colonies, I strenuously deny.—The business of ship-building in the rivers of Maryland and Virginia, in New-York and Philadelphia, and in the Piscataqua, is partly destroyed; and it is well known that the greenness of the materials, and inferiority of the timber, have
 long

long brought them into disrepute at all foreign markets. To begin then at the fountain-head of rebellion: Whoever attentively considers the situation of Boston Bay, will be convinced in a moment, that not a single schooner of twenty tons can pass without the risque of being taken by one or other of our cruizers. The same precautions may be taken to intercept the navigation of the other principal ports: Hudson's river may be effectually blocked up; the Delaware secured by our ships of war continually plying off Cape Henlopen and Cape May; while the happy disposition of a chain of frigates between Long Island, Cape Cod, and Casco Bay, will command a range of coast, comprehending the whole eastern frontier of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where their principal strength lies, exposed to the ravages of sudden attack and invasion. Thus the trade of New-York, Philadelphia, Boston, Marblehead, Salem, &c. are at the mercy of our fleets; and when properly reinforced, cannot fail to strike terror and dismay into the hearts of the traitorous inhabitants of Nantucket, Newport, Plymouth, Cape Ann, Beverly, Yarmouth, Middleborough, Portsmouth, Ipswich, Salisbury and Plympton; while they annoy the fisheries of Connecticut, Piscataqua, Casco Bay, York River, and Kennebec.

Since

Since therefore a British naval force, not only superior to any thing the Americans can hope to raise in half a century, but to those of France and Spain united, at this moment covers these western shores; to suppose that our gallant commanders on their several stations, would permit an armed force to pass them in the narrows, or suffer the rebel paltry sloop and schooner privateers to traverse the sea coasts, in the manner reported by these shameless caitiffs, who stuff the newspapers with lyes and treason, is so palpable an absurdity, that no man in his senses can possibly admit the preposterous idea.

Having thus, sir, fully confuted the fallacious supposition, that the northern colonies either have or can send any considerable power of annoyance to sea: necessity compels me to search for the source of this pretended armament to the southward—but even here, all is weak, defenceless, and impotent; Maryland and Virginia are not in a condition to protect their unguarded rivers, the Patuxen, the Potomac, York river, and Rapahanoc, are by no means capable to be defended from the insults of a twenty gun ship.

Charles Town, the capital of the Carolinas, is more indebted for its security to the shallowness of its barr, than to its natural

tural strength, notwithstanding the late unlucky affair at Sullivan's Island.

Farther, Mr. Speaker, it must give every lover of his country the utmost pleasure to peruse the long list of captures made by our commanders in the West Indies:—our cruizers on that station, are so judiciously disposed, that the whole rebel trade with the French at the Cape, Guadaloupe, and Martinico;—with the Spaniards at the Havannah, and Hispaniola;—with the Dutch at Curracoa, St. Eustatia, Surinam and Saba;—and with the Danes at Santa Creux and St. Thomas, is effectually destroyed.—What then is to become of their hitherto lucrative trade to Europe and the Southern Islands?—can they export, without the utmost hazard, their superfluity of corn, fish, boards, lumber and live stock to the West Indies; their dried fish and oil, to Spain, Portugal, and Italy; their masts, tar, hemp, flax, tobacco, rice, whale-fins, fur and deer skins; to France and England? No, by this single stroke of Britain, in cutting off the American navigation, their whole strength is blasted and withered up, their fisheries are annihilated, and their existence, as a maritime people, on the verge of perdition; for if commerce may justly be called the sinews of war, what idea can be formed

E

of

of the power of a nation, destitute of trade, manufactures or money: and already drove to the necessity of substituting a wretched paper currency, ruinous in the event; and fallacious as the cobweb coalition, that binds them in the most ignoble chains.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, the time is approaching, and I may venture to prophesy, at no great distance; when dire necessity and the horrors of war, co-operating with other causes, will combine, to remove the philm from before the eyes of his majesty's deluded subjects in North America, the delirium will vanish, which for the present hinders them from seeing the infamy of their fetters; nay, the delusion already begins to subside; the majority of the people appear sensible of the folly of exalting the rebel leaders into principalities and powers.—Washington is now farther than ever from the hope of being created Hereditary Prince of Pensilvania; neither will the self-important Schyler, be made Duke of the Mohauks.—Old Putnam has abandoned the flattering idea of the Marquissate of Cape Cod, and the traitor Lee's imprisonment, effectually precludes him from enjoying the title and emoluments of Duke of the Jerfies.

To

(19)

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, the sword of justice is now drawn, and detested be that man, to the latest posterity, who wishes to establish the INDEPENDENCY OF AMERICA, on the ruin and dishonour of GREAT BRITAIN.

F I N I S.

(10)
The contents of the box of the Lord of Justice is now
being and being to be sent to the Lord of Justice who
will be to the Lord of Justice of the Lord of Justice on the
and the Lord of Justice of the Lord of Justice.



2 1 1 1 2

M
EH